

일인군단

人軍團

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One Man Army

-일인군단 -

- Part 3 -

-Author-

성진저

[Chamber's Cleanup Service]

Chapter 61

The Heroic Lands (1)

Congratulations. You have arrived at the Heroic Lands for the first time and by yourself. This record will be engraved in the world for eternity.

You have acquired the legendary-grade title 'One who surpassed despair by himself (first)'.

Finally, he passed through the Path to Death and arrived at the Heroic Lands. Although it was slightly close right at the end, his final method worked and he was able to break through it.

"Phew, I'm not doing that again."

He heaved a deep sigh as he raised his head.

Although it was a difficult journey, he overcame it and was able to arrive at the Heroic Lands earlier than anyone.

And the rewards were very sweet as well.

'It's a legendary-grade title again? One who surpassed despair by himself? As far as I know, the title given to the users that arrive at the Heroic Lands are given rare-grade titles named 'One who surpassed despair'. What is this one? And by himself? Were there solo-play related titles in EL?'

Sanghyuk tilted his head and opened the description of the title.

Title - 'One who surpassed despair by himself(first)'

Grade - Legendary

Description - You have for the first time, and by yourself, have arrived at the Heroic

Lands as a Dimensional Traveler. As always, the first is always special. And now, being alone also became special.

Effects – [Prefix: critical hit rate increases by 50% and attack increases by 20% when playing solo.] [Suffix: evasion rate increases by 50% and damage received decreases by 10% when playing solo.] [Constant effect: >The Solo(S): All stats increase by 25% when playing solo, Alone is better(A): All types of recovery ability increases by 2 times when there are no users within a 100m radius,<]

“That’s amazing!”

Having checked the title description, he could only be surprised. Legendary-grade titles were on a completely different level to rare-grade ones.

The title he got this time all had the condition that he must play solo, but the more difficult the conditions were to fulfill, the higher the effects it would be.

‘When playing solo’ was a pretty hard condition to fulfill. EL was made without solo playing in mind, so for other users, this title would be pretty much useless.

Perhaps due to the difficult conditions, the stat increase was frightening. The constant effect of ‘The Solo’ was so good that he couldn’t believe it.

The legendary-grade ‘first visitor’ title he got when he broke through the Giant’s Cave also gave an enormous stat increase in its passive effect ‘No.1’, but this one had an even better one.

What was important was that ‘when playing solo’ was a condition that practically didn’t matter to Sanghyuk.

In fact, he was someone that avoided team play so playing solo was a natural thing.

‘It’s only been 9 months since the game launched, but I got two legendary titles already... I’m doing an absurd thing.’

Sanghyuk honestly felt unreal. Even though he came back in time, he never imagined that he would be able to reach this point.

“It’s good. Very good.”

After thinking about it for a while, he eventually just laughed. Whether it was luck or whatever, getting titles or items was a good thing.

Sanghyuk immediately took out his marking book and did his first marking in the Heroic Lands. He didn't know what was going to happen, so marking was a must.

After finishing marking, he started walking towards the first village 'Hero's Rest'.

Naturally, he was going to install a vendor NPC near the exit of the Path to Death and sell maps of the Heroic Lands through it.

So, he even left the basic skill slot he gained at level 50 empty. He was going to put map creation skill and make a map of the Heroic Lands by going around it.

Of course, it wasn't like a map was a must in the Heroic Lands like it was in Hellfire Desert, so he would have to make the price quite low, but considering the profit-to-manufacture-cost ratio, he definitely had to do it.

It was a massive profit.



"Is that really it? Are there no additional reports?"

Seo Wontae asked the management team leader as he read through the report.

"Yes, that is all that Chaos had to report. We did ask for additional information... but I don't think it will tell us the information we want."

"Mm... so the conclusion is that we cannot find out which group of people broke through the Path of Despair nor the method they used to break through it?"

What the users called the Path to Death was officially known as the Path of Despair.

"Yes. Chaos mentions that that information is under the DN Privacy Policy Laws."

"That damned privacy policy laws... No matter how I think about it, I think Chaos is over-interpreting the privacy policy laws... this is awkward. Honestly, it's not like we're trying to do something. We're just trying to keep tabs..."

“It cannot be helped. The Chaos Logic Circuit is extremely normal, so it will become an even bigger problem if we try to forcefully change it.”

“Just what kind of method could they have used? According to the report from the support team and the management 2 team, there were no mass movements from users. If it wasn’t human wave tactics, I really wonder what kind of method these people used to break through the Path of Despair.”

“For now, there was no use of bugs in the process of breaking through the Path of Despair. Instead, Chaos intervened at the last minute and increased the difficulty by 10 times. Chaos also must have judged that the Path of Despair must not be broken through yet. But the thing is... even then it was broken through.”

“They broke through 10 times the difficulty? Does that even make sense?”

“We could not believe it either, but there’s no way Chaos would have lied to us. It seems like Chaos raised the difficulty drastically just at the last limit... but it’s still an amazing feat.”

“Now that I heard that, I really wonder what kind of users broke through the Path of Despair.”

“We’re looking for them as we speak so we should be able to find out soon.”

“That’s good. Oh, but the Heroic Lands... it should be fine right? They might abuse the competitive contents. We can prevent that right?”

“Abusing competitive contents is punished by Chaos through investigating all records, whether it’s battle or chat logs, so if they do, they would regret it big time.”

“There’s, of course, a warning message, right?”

“Yes, we made sure that they would be able to see it, so they wouldn’t dare to think about abusing it.”

“Well, if they do start using the competitive contents, we would find out who they are.”

“Yes. The rankings of the various competitive contents are information we are permitted to view, so if they use it, we would be able to find out who they are.”

“For now, please keep a watch on the Heroic Lands. Even though everything is perfect, we don’t know when and where a problem may occur, so tell Chaos to watch out as well.”

“Understood.”

After his conversation with the management team leader, Seo Wontae put away the report to one side and lied deep into his chair.

‘They progressed to the Heroic Lands already? Are the users more capable than we expected? Or are there just a specific group of users that surpass all imagination?’

Seo Wontae fell into thought.



Sanghyuk started going around the Heroic Lands starting from Hero’s Rest. There were at least a couple of months until the other users started entering the Path to Death, so he wasn’t in a hurry, but there was no need to do that later either.

Since he also had some things to check around the Heroic Lands, it would be good to create the maps while he was at it.

Sanghyuk planned to first visit the two most iconic places in the Heroic Lands.

‘Hall of Gladiators’ and ‘Hall of Mortality’.

These two were the things he wanted to check out the most. He first went to the Hall of Gladiators.

The Hall of Gladiators was shaped like a huge colosseum, and the whole area was considered an independent space.

Sss, flash!

You have visited the Hall of Gladiators for the first time.

As a first visit bonus, you have acquired ‘Lifetime gladiator license’.

‘Oho, there’s a bonus like this.’

It was nothing much, but obtaining something for free was always a good thing.

When in fact, gladiator licenses were supposed to be renewed every month, and that required a thousand gold each time.

Lifetime gladiator license.

– Gladiator license that does not need to be renewed. There’s also a special effect.

Name : [Register]

Duration : Infinite.

Basic effect : Able to use the Hall of Gladiators.

Bonus effect : Able to use the Hall of Gladiators using an alias. However, once the alias is set, it is impossible to change.

‘I can use the Hall of Gladiators with an alias?’

Sanghyuk made an interesting expression after seeing the lifetime gladiator license. Hall of Gladiators was a place he couldn’t hide his identity, so he was planning to reveal his main identity ‘Immortal’, but with this, the story would get a little more interesting.

‘Looks like I can create another identity.’

Sanghyuk immediately equipped the Shadow Duke of Falcon title and started creating another identity.

The identities he had made until now were ‘Ordinary-looking guy’, ‘Gale’, ‘Large Golden Mountain’, and ‘Blake’ for a total of four.

Sanghyuk made his fifth identity, ‘Lone King’. This guy looked very ordinary, but had sharp eyes and looked like a pirate.

Then he registered himself as 'Lone King' in the lifetime license.

Having finished registering himself, he immediately called out the gladiator window and tried applying for 1 vs 1 fight.

Registering once in the Hall of Gladiators was enough to call out the gladiator fight window anywhere as long as it was a safe zone.

Once one applied for a duel and was matched, then they would enter the hall. However, as there were no opponents right now, there were no matches at all.

[Cannot find an opponent.]

Around 10 minutes after he applied, a message Sanghyuk never saw in his previous life appeared and the application was canceled.

'Ah, that's a pity. If I could be matched without an opponent, I can monopolize the first prize for at least two months... '

He tried just in case, but it didn't work.

'Looks like I'll have to do with the lifetime license.'

He made a small smile as he left the Hall of Gladiators.

His next destination was naturally the Hall of Mortality.

Hall of Mortality worked in the same way as the Hall of Gladiators. He obtained the 'Lifetime mortality license', and registered himself as Lone King as well.

And yet again, he could not put himself in the rankings since there were no matches.

After visiting the two halls, he then just walked around the Heroic Lands in the most optimum path.

The monsters appearing in the Heroic Lands were much stronger than the ones in Hellfire Desert, but they were not a match for Sanghyuk; especially since he had

obtained another legendary-grade title and gained a stat boost.

He couldn't be considered an ordinary user anymore.

Compared to monsters, if ordinary field monsters were normal users, Sanghyuk was a named monster, no, a named boss monster.

Boss named user Sanghyuk.

He was becoming an army all by himself.

Chapter 62

The Heroic Lands (2)

Having finished the map, Sanghyuk erased the mapping skill this time as well. And this time, he left the basic skill slot empty. He had a skill in mind, so he planned to add it later.

Having finished creating the map in one week, Sanghyuk went to the largest city in the Heroic Lands, 'Tirune'. As there were no other users in the heroic lands yet, there was no need to move the Golden Mountain merchant guild just yet.

The reason he came to Tirune was for something else.

'Secret dungeon... before the other users arrive, I need to monopolize all the secret dungeons that I know of.'

Unlike Hellfire Desert, which had barely any secret dungeons, there were incredibly many secret dungeons in the Heroic Lands.

Although Sanghyuk didn't know the locations to all of those, he had information on a considerable number of them. Using that information as the basis, he would be able to gain incredible profits if he could monopolize as many of them as possible.

'Even if I can't find anything else, I must absolutely discover the Swordking's Tomb and Hurricane Hole.'

These two were the most famous among the secret dungeons in the Heroic Lands.

The Swordking's Tomb would be best if he could monopolize it all by himself, and Hurricane Hole was good for selling entrance tickets.

Between these two, he had very precise information about Hurricane Hole, while he knew a few fragmented information about the Swordking's Tomb.

Sanghyuk thought that it would be better to look for the Swordking's Tomb first since he already knew about Hurricane Hole. As the Path to Death still had no intentions of

letting users pass, he had a lot of time.

The Swordking's Tomb was literally a grave where the Swordking lay. The Swordking was one of the 144 recorded heroes of the Heroic Lands.

To rank them, he would be in the top 50 at least. The reason the Swordking's Tomb was ranked as the best secret dungeon though, was because of the various spiritual pills that could be gotten from it.

Spiritual pills were special items that permanently raised a stat by a small amount when consumed by a user.

Most spiritual pills raised a single point, like +1 health and +1 agility, but the important thing was that it could be stacked until +100.

Although the drop rate of the spiritual pills wasn't that high, the Swordking's Tomb itself was a secret dungeon that could be run for a long time, so he would be able to gain a considerable amount of those pills if he could monopolize this dungeon.

Dungeons that dropped spiritual pills were all classified as 'jackpot' dungeons, and among the secret dungeons, only the Swordking's Tomb dropped spiritual pills.

The rest were either from public dungeons or competitive dungeons that could be entered from the Hole of Mortality.

In other words, only the Swordking's Tomb was a place that could be monopolized.

Spiritual pills, due to their traits, didn't appear on the auctions, and even when they did, they were traded for incredibly expensive prices, so the best thing was to get them himself.

Sanghyuk did have plans to add spiritual pills into the buying list for the Golden Mountain merchant guild once the users flooded into the Heroic Lands, but no matter how good their business skills were, it would be incredibly hard to get any spiritual pills.

If the Swordking's Tomb was a dungeon that was perfect for monopolizing spiritual pills, Hurricane Hole was a secret dungeon that he could profit by revealing the walkthrough to others.

Hurricane Hole was a secret dungeon in the form of numerous holes connected into one. And up to 100 teams could simultaneously hunt in different holes.

Since the maximum clear count for the dungeon was infinite, there would be no problems no matter how many teams entered the dungeon per day.

However, the catch was that the dungeon only lasted 4 months. During those four months, he would be able to sell admission tickets to countless users.

On top of that, the dungeon difficulty wasn't that hard, and the amount of karma that could be gained from it was also above average, so there were no better places for teams of 3-4 people to level up.

Sanghyuk was planning to sell the entrance tickets through the Golden Mountain merchant guild once he found it.

Getting spiritual pills from the Swordking's Tomb and getting gold from Hurricane Hole was his first objective.

According to what he knew, the entrance to the Swordking's Tomb was near Tirune. Although he never went there in his previous life, he did watch a related video.

The video didn't talk about the exact location of the dungeon, but had a crucial hint of opening the dungeon. The problem was that he didn't know where to find the dungeon.

What was fortunate was that he remembered a few pieces of information he had heard.

'The Swordking's Tomb. A secret dungeon monopolized by Rising guild in my previous life. Rising got some fun out of that secret dungeon. According to rumors that came after the secret dungeon disappeared, a guild member found out about the secrets of the Swordking's Tomb after doing a quest that required him to catch thieves.'

Sanghyuk was thinking of tracing the Swordking's Tomb through the information he knew. Actually, though, any other user would not even dare think about doing that.

In a situation where they do not know which NPC gave out a quest to catch a thief, they would have to raise familiarity with all 7,949 NPCs that existed in Tirune to 'familiar'

before getting the quest... realistically, it would be impossible to raise familiarity with nearly 8,000 NPCs to that high.

It would take at least half a year even if he went crazy.

However, there was no need for Sanghyuk to do this near-impossible task. He already had the 'Shadow Duke of Falcon' title that raised the familiarity of all NPCs with the exception of a few special ones to familiar level.

So, he just had to walk around Tirune and speak to them and see what quests he got.

He would receive the quests and just give up those unrelated to thieves. Of course, the familiarity he had with the NPCs would go down a little, but that wasn't a problem.

Sanghyuk walked around Tirune and spoke with several NPCs. There were those that gave him quests, while there were those that didn't. He gave up all the unrelated quests and looked for the quest for catching thieves.

Only after he gave up around 200 quests could he find one that was related to what he was looking for.

[Quest] 'Tirune's frantic thieves'

: Storekeeper Cotva is suffering from extreme stress thanks to the thieves that steal items from the store every day. He wants to exterminate the thieves, but it's not as easy as it sounds.

Progress: Catch thieves (0/100), discover thief bases (0/4)

"This is it!"

The moment he read the description of the quest, he was sure that this was the quest he was looking for.

Not only was there a category for catching thieves, there was also the part where he had to look for their bases. Looking for their bases was the key to discovering the secret dungeon.

Sanghyuk immediately set out to catch thieves after getting the quest.

There were a lot of thieves inside and even outside Tirune. As they were classified as monster-type NPCs, they could be killed within the city.

He quickly started exterminating them and he soon discovered all their bases as well.

The Swordking's Tomb lay within one of those bases. Of course, Sanghyuk didn't know which. Even if he did, just getting to the entrance didn't mean he could enter.

To open the secret dungeon, he had to have a 'key'. Like knowing how to manipulate secret mechanisms or using certain items to expose the entrance.

In that sense, the quest Sanghyuk was doing was an important clue in acquiring that key.

Since finding thieves and their bases was an easy job for Sanghyuk, he finished all of that in just an hour.

"Ooh, amazing! You exterminated those vermins... you are more amazing than you look. Since this is the case, can I ask you for one more thing? There will definitely be items that they stole from my store somewhere in their bases. If you get me those, then I will give you more rewards. Oh! Take him with you. He lived here in my store for over a decade, so he should be able to smell the items from my store."

Cotva let the dog he raised follow Sanghyuk and asked him to find the items, and the quest went on to the second chain quest.

'So this was the key.'

Sanghyuk realized that this was the key that he was looking for the moment he looked at the 2nd chain quest.

The thin old dog... He found it a little funny that this old dog was the key, but as long as it let him find the Swordking's Tomb, then all was good.



pant pant pant, woof! Woof!

The old dog did its job. It found the lost items from Cotva's store from the most tattered-looking graveyard out of the 4 bases.

The items were hidden behind a wall. Since the space that hid the items were very delicately hidden, Sanghyuk thought that he wouldn't have been able to find it even if he decided to look for it without the dog.

‘There’s no way those thieves made such a space... so they used it after coincidentally discovering the space? Then that means that this is the entrance to the secret dungeon...’

Sanghyuk first took all the items into his bag. Once he took this to Cotva, then the quest would end, and if he just took them for himself, his familiarity would degrade as the quest failed, but in exchange, he would get the items.

However, this wasn’t the time to be pondering about that right now.

‘It should be around here somewhere.’

Sanghyuk started looking for something in the hidden space. After a bit of time, he could eventually discover what he was looking for.

Dozens of wall paintings. They were what Sanghyuk was looking for.

To be exact, they weren’t exactly ‘paintings’ but ‘puzzles’.

Only when he solved the puzzle would he be able to enter the Swordking’s Tomb.

Actually, the Rising guild also took around a week to solve this puzzle in Sanghyuk’s previous life. Eventually, they had to ask for an external puzzles expert and could only open the tomb then.

The puzzle’s difficulty was just that high.

Obviously, Sanghyuk couldn’t solve this puzzle either. In the video he saw, there was the solution to this puzzle, but the problem was that Sanghyuk didn’t remember the

exact moves they took.

Actually, it was more correct to say that it was practically impossible to remember everything correctly from a video he saw 10 years ago.

‘Good. I’m here now... and there’s only one thing to do.’

Sanghyuk smiled and left the hidden space.

This wasn’t something that he could open. However, he knew a person that might be able to open this.

‘Well, not exactly a ‘person’, I guess.’

Sanghyuk summoned a person without hesitation Well, an NPC, to be exact.

Ilya appeared in front of him. With his title ‘Ah! My Ilya’, he was able to summon Ilya as though summoning a tamed monster.

Of course, she would disappear once the duration ended.

“Have you called.”

Ilya kneeled on one knee and spoke with respect.

“Ilya. Your ‘Unlock’ skill... can it open a door that’s locked in a puzzle form?”

Sanghyuk looked around Ilya’s status window a few days ago, and found out that she had gained a new skill after a little bit of the seal was dispelled.

[Darkmoon-specific skill ‘Unlock(S)’]

This was the skill she had.

“If it is locked in any form, then I can unlock it with my abilities.”

Ilya did not let him down.

“Good! Then follow me.”

Sanghyuk took Ilya and walked back to the hidden space.

Chapter 63

First Broadcast (1)

Ziiin, clack! Clack!

Ilya really unlocked the puzzle-type locking mechanism.

‘Oho, she’s more useful than I thought.’

Sanghyuk was thinking about the usages of Ilya as he watched from behind.

“It has been unlocked.”

As soon as Ilya’s words ended, the blue-glowing dungeon entrance appeared before him.

‘It would be somewhat bad of me to send her back right after opening the entrance... and since she’s here, let’s try cooperating.’

Sanghyuk didn’t send Ilya back and entered the dungeon with her.

You have discovered the ancient Swordking’s Tomb hidden in the graveyard.

The secret dungeon ‘The Swordking’s Tomb’ has been opened.

The Swordking’s Tomb will be bound to the Dimensional Traveler ‘Immortal’.

A total of seven users can be registered for this dungeon.

The Swordking was one of the 144 heroes that protected Treenark in the past. Of course, he wasn’t one of their core members, but was capable nonetheless.

Perhaps due to that, his tomb was filled with monsters named ‘swordsman ghost’, and it had a tricky pattern on top of being a ghost-type monster.

Secret dungeon [The Swordking's Tomb] <B rank>

- Bound to the Dimensional Traveler 'Immortal'
- Registered Dimensional Travelers [Immortal], [N/A], [N/A], [N/A], [N/A], [N/A], [N/A]

: A tomb within which an old hero slumbers. The martial artists that sought the Swordking's sword had gathered here and became monsters that are now swordsman ghosts. Fundamentally, this tomb was created in a labyrinth structure in order to prevent anyone from disrupting the Swordking's rest and are filled with numerous traps.

- Bonus karma: +20%
- Dungeon clear rewards: Swordking's inheritance. Low probability of spiritual pills.
- Dungeon reactivation time after clearing: 10 minutes.
- Dungeon duration: infinite
- Maximum dungeon clears: 1,000 times.

Sanghyuk checked the information on the dungeon and looked ahead. It was a straight path. Passing through this path and getting to the chamber where the Swordking's body lay, he would be able to meet the boss monster of this secret dungeon, the 'Swordking's resentful soul'.

Killing the resentful soul would clear the dungeon, and as the resentful soul wasn't a 'named monster', Sanghyuk would have no problems defeating it.

In fact, the maze-like dungeon structure and the tricky traps, as well as the sudden appearance of the swordsman ghosts were more tricky to deal with.

"The paths are complex, and I sense many traps installed. Should I commence pathfinding and trap removal simultaneously?"

Even though Sanghyuk didn't give the order, Ilya found her job.

“You can do that?”

“Yes. I cannot tell you everything, but not to mention unlocking locked doors, finding paths and dismantling traps are my specialties. To be exact, they are specialties of someone who succeeds the power of the Darkmoon.

Sanghyuk thought of the quickest method to clear the Swordking’s Tomb the moment he heard Ilya’s answer.

“Good, then you focus on finding the path and erasing the traps. I’ll take care of the monsters”

“Understood.”

Sanghyuk took Ilya and entered the Swordking’s Tomb for a test drive.

The swordsman ghosts were tricky to deal with just as he had heard. However, Sanghyuk had learned all their timings after just dealing with four of them.

This was Sanghyuk’s most frightening talent. Sanghyuk learned their unique skill timings with his body and dodged all of their attacks with ease.

With that happening, Sanghyuk’s dodge rates exceeded the dodge rate stat on his status window. His dodge rate stat was already so high, but adding his own battle senses into it, Sanghyuk now had an incredibly high dodge rate.

Fwoosh! Clang!

Sanghyuk moved sideways lightly after dealing with one of them and barely leaving the second one alive, and at that moment, a semi-translucent sword passed through his location and hit the wall.

This was a 1.7 second-timed dodge, and while normal users dodged between 1~2 seconds, Sanghyuk enjoyed doing a 0.1 second-timed doge.

Sanghyuk’s timing was just that high compared to other users.

Sanghyuk dodged the swordsman ghost’s attack through a perfect timed dodge and swung the Ten Millennia Goldbone Whip almost simultaneously.

He dodged at the absolute last moment and counterstruck with the very small gap between actions.

Users called this the gapstrike (gap+counterstrike), and gapstrikes were usually a unique thing to the highest-ranking users.

Actually, even the highest-ranking users couldn't user gapstrikes as they wished. In that sense, Sanghyuk used it freely enough to call him master.

Riiiiip! Kehhhhhhhk!

Another swordsman ghost was ripped apart by the whip. The greatest advantage to gapstriking lay in that it was hard to dodge or defend as it came too fast.

Monsters were especially worse in defending against it than users.

Even after Sanghyuk defeated the swordsman ghost, he looked at Ilya who was removing traps.

“Not yet?”

“Oh, it’s almost done. Seeing the complexity of the traps, I presume that this is the end of the tomb.”

Thanks to Ilya, Sanghyuk had an easy time breaking through the Swordking’s Tomb. He didn’t have to wander around lost in the maze, and he didn’t have to worry about the traps either.

The swordsman ghosts weren’t Sanghyuk’s opponents, so the two arrived at the final chamber where the Swordking lay within just twenty minutes after entering.

Normally, the final chamber was a place that a party of 7 would need an entire two hours of suffering to get to.

However, the common sense-destroyer Sanghyuk destroyed common sense this time as well and broke through with his own style. Though, even if it was Sanghyuk, he would have taken at least 4 hours to get here if not for Ilya accompanying him.

Ilya’s role was that big.

“It’s opening.”

Ilya dispelled the last trap and as a result, the final chamber showed itself.

Now, killing the Swordking’s resentful soul would clear the dungeon.

“Ilya, you can go back for the time being.”

Sanghyuk sent Ilya back for now. Her summon time was calculated by total, so it was best to save some like this.

Having sent Ilya back, Sanghyuk entered the chamber. When he did, a tattered coffin in the middle of the room started giving off ominous smoke.

Once a well-going hero, but a hero has forgotten by all once he died; the Swordking. That became a resent and he now became a ghost, but even after becoming a ghost, he could not become a named monster.

Of course, this wasn’t the end. The Swordking appeared later in a different form, and he would be a named monster at that time.

‘That Swordking is utterly vicious, but this guy... is piss easy.’

Sanghyuk smirked and looked at the ominous aura that was slowly taking form.

Swordking’s ghost... An ordinary boss monster that was not a named monster could never be Sanghyuk’s opponent.



Even though it was not a named monster and as such the first kill bonus would not activate, he got a spiritual pill the first time. Although it was a strength pill and not the agility pill that he wanted, strength would help him greatly anyway.

Though, Sanghyuk was planning to eat all the pills regardless of the type, even if they were intelligence or wisdom pills. Pills were always short in supply anyway.

So it was best to eat as much as possible when he could.

As the gap between users who ate spiritual pills and the ones that didn’t would widen

tremendously as more time went, consuming spiritual pills was a must to be a highest-ranking user.

Usually, raising a single stat by +40 or more was acknowledged as a highest-tier spiritual pill consumption in Sanghyuk's previous life.

Although the limit was +100, it was practically impossible to fill that +100.

The reason Sanghyuk wished to monopolize the Swordking's Tomb was also that he wanted to get at least 150 spiritual pills here. If he gathered as many spiritual pills as possible from the Swordking's Tomb and gathered them through the Golden Mountain merchant guild as well, then he thought that he would be able to consume a tremendous amount of spiritual pills.

Sanghyuk cleared the Swordking's Tomb a few more times after that with Ilya, but unfortunately, no pills dropped.

Now that he truly learned and got used to conquering the Swordking's Tomb, he went to look for Hurricane Hole.

As Hurricane Hole was a place he earned money as a 'carrying bus' a lot in his previous life, he knew about this place too well.

Without much effort, Sanghyuk opened the entrance to Hurricane Hall in half a day. Knowing the answer made it so easy.

Considering how Gold Rush took almost half a month of suffering in his previous life to find this place, the ease of finding the path when knowing the answer could be seen.

Sanghyuk was planning to use the Hurricane Hole as a business item for the Golden Mountain merchant guild, so he didn't even go for a test drive.

Now that he gained the two secret dungeons he had to acquire in the Heroic Lands, Sanghyuk started to look for the rest of the secret dungeons that he knew some information about.

Of course, he cleared the Swordking's Tomb whenever he had the time to get spiritual pills.

After around ten days of working, Sanghyuk was able to find four other secret

dungeons of various scale.

‘I have to focus on the Swordking’s Tomb for now, so let’s just leave these be.’

Since all four of the secret dungeons had an unlimited duration, there were no problems in just leaving them be.

He wanted to look for some more secret dungeons, but the information he knew was too fragmented and it was not that easy to find any other secret dungeons.

And what decisively drove him away from finding secret dungeons was that there were a lot of things to prepare for the broadcast that would take place a week from now.

“Yes, I’ve almost finished editing the video for the first broadcast. I’ll send it to you by tomorrow, so you can check it then.”

Recently, Sanghyuk had many calls with Lee Mirae. Since there wasn’t that much time left until the first broadcast, there were a lot of things for the two to consult.

[Are you really fine with not doing a livestream? Most of the other channels seemed to be preparing something big with a livestream...]

“I said last time, but if you see the video tomorrow, then you’ll see why I’m fine with it.”

[Hmm, is that so? Okay, then. Let’s talk again after looking at the video tomorrow.]

“Just think about how to make a teaser. Then it’s game over. The other channels will never win.”

[Aren’t you being too confident? Your opponents, well, let’s call them that, aren’t so easy you know?]

“It’s somewhat embarrassing for me to keep repeating this, but again, you’ll understand once you check the video tomorrow.”

[So, you mean to say that everything is inside this ‘video’ you’ll send me tomorrow?]

“Yes, that is right.”

[It seems like we'll have to speak again after I check your video tomorrow.]

“Sure. I'm almost done editing, so you'll be able to receive the video early morning tomorrow at the earliest.”

[Yes, I'll be waiting.]

After ending the phone call with Lee Mirae, he logged into DN (Dreamnet) immediately. Not that he logged into EL.

As he purchased one of the paid services of DN, the ‘master video editor tool’, he could edit the video inside the virtual space.

The video he was making instead of the livestream.

This was a strong blow to all the other people and would stomp on their livestream.

‘Live channel's rise and fall... it begins with the initial audience capturing. So the first broadcast is very, very important.’

Sanghyuk knew the importance of the first broadcast, so he was putting more effort into it than anything he made until now.

Chapter 64

First Broadcast (2)

[Is this for real? Did you really... pass that place?]

“You don’t think I’ll be scamming on TV, do you? It is real. I just barely passed a few days ago.”

[Wow, that’s amazing! Just what kind of members does the One guild have? How many of you passed through together? The bit you pass through is cut into slides so there is too much information missing. If you show a little bit more, it will be awesome...]

“Unfortunately, some of my guild members do not want their identities to be revealed so I cannot help it.”

[Haa... now I’m even more curious.]

“Well, the important part is the introduction of the Heroic Lands that comes after it. That video should be enough for it to be a hit.

[You’re right. Even if the other guilds are preparing for a strong blow with a livestream, they can’t win against the introduction of the Heroic Lands since it’s still shrouded in mystery.]

“Well, I’m planning to put the video on and even accept questions in real time so whatever the others do, people will flock my way.”

[That’s for sure. Even I would definitely watch. But do you really have to put on a mask? From what I see, your appearance is very decent and your body is very fit, so I think you’ll attract quite a lot of attention from the female audience if you just put on a little makeup...]

“Well, it’s a bit of a mystery concept and a bit of my hate of revealing my private life. Please understand.”

[Okay. We already talked about that so I won’t say anything more. But, you must fill

the entire 3 hours okay? I had a hard time winning over this golden period.]

“Don’t worry about that. The first two hours will be split into part 1 and part 2 and for part one I will talk about the Path to Death still cuts and for part 2 I will introduce the Heroic Lands and receive questions live. For the final hour, I will just clear a dungeon in the Heroic Lands. That should be fine right?”

[Just hearing about it makes me want to watch. That’s good. I will also plan as best I can like you said. The broadcasting devices will be set in your room the day before just as you wished. But like I said last time, I think it will be better for you to get an office as soon as possible.]

“Okay, I’ll work at home for only a short while and look for an office as soon as possible.”

[Yes, then please call me later. Oh! Can’t you tell just me about what kind of people there are in the One guild?]

“I’m sorry, but that’s not up for me to decide.”

[Phew, that’s a pity.]

Lee Mirae finished the call with a disappointed voice. She was a passionate gamer of EL at the same time she was a producer of LGN, so she was curious about the true identity of One guild.

Having finished the call, Sanghyuk started checking the video he edited once again. Although the completeness of the video was one thing he was looking for, he was also looking for any bits that might lead to a leak of his identity.

He checked this dozens of times already, but he still didn’t let his guard down. It would be a headache if his identity was leaked, so he had to be careful here.

LGN was already teasing the release of Live Channels for EL since 2 weeks ago.

When 30 live channels, as well as the large scale guilds that occupied it, were revealed to the public, the public actually became excited about it.

And now, four days prior to the broadcast, LGN indiscreetly created teaser videos and

uploaded them to video websites and even physical ads.

Thanks to their offensive marketing, the expectations of live channels only rose and the users of EL were talking about live channels as well.

[Wow, did you see those live channel teasers? They were awesome!]

[I heard Rising guild was going to do a live raid of the Sphinx.]

[I heard Crusader was about to start a large-scale guild war.]

[Rising? Crusader? Do you think they are what's hot? Didn't you guys see One guild? They are going to reveal the new continent. They are playing on a completely different level.]

[For real? Where did you see that?]

[On the last part of the teaser. Although there was no mention of any names, the new continent is obviously going to be the Heroic Lands!]

[Don't speak BS. No matter how great they are, it's impossible to break through the Path to Death right now. They probably found some big secret dungeon or something.]

[He's right, there's no way they got through the Path to Death when their skills are so bloated. It's about time the rumors about their skills died down, but why isn't it going down?]

[BJ Gale's deeds were too big. I also personally think that they're blown out of scale and can't believe that they broke through the Path to Death.]

[There are still people who worship One guild? They are long since dead Stop your actions.]

[You know shit. Do you know that the highest-ranking users pick One guild whenever they are asked to pick top 10 guilds?]

[They just have an inferiority complex. One guild is just relatively unknown, their power is strong.]

[What power. They're just lead around by the nose by a scammer streamer.]

[Then LGN got also scammed by a streamer? Make some sense please.]

[Yup, LGN got scammed too.]

[Whew, idiots everywhere.]

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The various forums and communities became incredibly bustling with those teasers. People were all talking about live channels, and most of the time, they looked forward to it.

Live Channels were a big hit in Sanghyuk's previous life as well.

It was to the point that the term 'watching users' who only watched and didn't play at all, was coined later.

Sanghyuk checked the video one last time had a look at the tiger mask and the clean clothes he would be wearing for the broadcast. He was planning to switch between different animal masks to hide his identity.

The people would be watching gameplay and not his face anyway, so it wouldn't really matter even if he wore a mask.

Though, like what Lee Mirae said, not wearing the mask may bring more popularity, but he didn't want to compromise between popularity and the losses he would make by revealing his face.

'The preparation is over... and all that is left is to let the bomb explode.'

Sanghyuk put the clothes and the mask to one side and opened the capsule again. He was naturally going to spend the remaining time within EL.



Sanghyuk focused on the Swordking's Tomb until the first broadcast for the Live Channel and gathered spiritual pills.

According to his experience, the drop rate for these pills was around 20%.

Actually 20% wasn't that low.

Normally, users would have to divide that by the number of members in their party, so the chances of earning one for themselves would be even lower.

Right now, Sanghyuk had cleared the tomb 121 times, and got 28 pills.

6 for strength, 5 agility, 3 health, and 4 intelligence, 5 wisdom, 4 vitality, and 1 charm.

The first pill he got, which was a strength pill, was a double plus and after that only one agility and one vitality pill had a single plus.

A plus would naturally increase the effects of the pill.

A double plus strength pill would permanently raise strength by +3. Compared to +1 for a pill with no plusses, it was a big difference.

By that same logic, the single plus agility and vitality pills gave +2 each.

The rest of the pills only gave a single stat.

In any case, Sanghyuk consumed all the 28 pills.

There was no need to hold back, neither was there a need to sell them. Although it varied by stat, nothing bad would come out of eating a non-main stat.

Sanghyuk was planning to consume all the pills he was going to get anyway.

'I should probably get ready.'

Sanghyuk checked the time and returned to the village before logging out. The first broadcast for the Live Channel was going to begin in 3 hours.

It was the first day, and there were various things to notify, so Lee Mirae was currently at Sanghyuk's house. Broadcasting devices nowadays not only became smaller, but they were much more automated as well, so Lee Mirae could install the entire set by herself.

Actually, she wanted to watch the first broadcast of the Live Channel 'One' that may become a future legend.

'This is going to be a jackpot. I can bet my life on it!

Lee Mirae watched Sanghyuk that was dozing off on the seat with the mask off after preparing everything for the broadcast.

Even though this was his first broadcast, he didn't seem nervous at all.

He even proficiently handled equipment as well. Even though broadcasting equipment became much easier for newcomers to use, the things installed in Sanghyuk's room were professional-grade.

However, Sanghyuk acted as though he had experience in handling those as well. Lee Mirae didn't even have to do anything.

It was as though he had experience in this field before. Right now too, an average person would be trying to shake off their nervousness and not dozing off.

'He's really peculiar...'

Lee Mirae knew that Sanghyuk was 7 years younger than her, but strangely felt like she was talking to a senior or a superior at work when she talked with him.

Like that, Lee Mirae thought about various things while watching Sanghyuk without waking him up. There was nothing to do right now anyway.

After around an hour or so later, Sanghyuk woke up by himself. Having woken up, Sanghyuk naturally proceeded to put on his tiger mask and got ready to stream.

Lee Mirae didn't need to help out here either.

Actually, in Sanghyuk's shoes, this was much more natural. In his previous life, the Live

Channel for Team SKY was under Sanghyuk's management. Not to mention getting reading to stream, he would even appear and do commentary.

He did that for more than 5 years, so there was no way he would have anything like nervousness.

“3, 2, 1, live!”

Sanghyuk counted and played the video he had prepared beforehand.

The video started with a few slideshows. Surprisingly, the slideshow was about the Sphinx collapsing. Above the slideshow were the letters...

“One Guild, Their Legend Begins Now.”

That was written in clear text and the video stopped. Then, a small screen appeared at the bottom with Sanghyuk in it.

“Hello, it's Gale.”

With no nervousness at all, he continued with his words naturally.

“I meet you again through LGN's Live Channel this time. And before I start... I'll introduce myself as well as my channel.”

The reason Sanghyuk stopped the video was to wait for enough viewers to gather.

If he played the video when there weren't that many viewers, then the efficiency wouldn't be so good. Like how it required some time for fruits to mature and become delicious, the live broadcast would also be better with more viewers.

Sanghyuk introduced his Live Channel as the 'One channel'. And told the audience that this would be the official channel for One guild, and that the audience could check the users of One guild through the channel.

The audience the comments from the viewers were mostly 'why are you wearing a mask?', 'you have a good voice', 'take off your mask', 'where do I apply for One guild?', 'where is the new continent?' and such things, but Sanghyuk answered what he

thought was necessary and ignored the rest.

After around 15 minutes, Sanghyuk judged that there were enough viewers.

Lee Mirae at the front also nodded and signaled that he should start.

“Well, then. You must be curious about a lot of things, and I’ll answer your questions after watching this video.”

Sanghyuk resumed the video as soon as he finished talking.

The slideshows continued. However, the slides weren’t like the rest. The Path to Death, or so the users called it.

The slide showed the entrance to it.

Then, a series of letters appeared on top of it again.

“Start!”

As soon as that word appeared, slides started changing at rapid speed. Those slides were all from inside the Path to Death.

From the ‘Red Eyed Orc’ that were being massacred to the shadow-series monsters. Although the video was technically a slideshow, the video was edited well and felt like a person was breaking through.

After a series of slides, it suddenly turned dark.

But the surprising thing came after. Darkness Knights popped out from everywhere.

This was like the climax part of a zombie apocalypse movie.

The photos (not videos) were so life-like and even the audience twitched a little. However, the real deal had yet to come.

A road was being made. Amazingly, dozens and then hundreds of fallen Darkness Knights were seen and it felt as though a path was being created.

And then the final scene arrived.

The new continent that could be seen amidst the light.

Although it was a few slides, the Heroic Lands were finally revealed to the normal users.

Chapter 65

Provocation (1)

Monitoring Center at the main headquarters of LGN.

Chief Producer Kim WoonHo was looking at the main status bar with a nervous expression.

“The real-time viewer numbers are increasing rapidly.”

30 minutes had passed since the 30 Live Channels had just begun their first broadcast. The reaction Kim WoonHo dearly wished for finally arrived.

“Which channels are exploding? Is it Rising? DD? Terriculum?”

“Uh... the thing, is, sir... the other channels are just doing pretty well, but there's this one channel that are attracting views at insane rates.”

“Is that... One guild?

“Yes, it is, sir.”

“Wow... Mirae's words were right.”

As the viewership numbers were being updated real time, the number of viewers for the ‘One channel’ was increasing at an insane rate.

“Did they really reveal the Heroic Lands? Put One channel on the sub monitor.”

Kim WoonHo spoke while looking at the monitor to the right of him. The number of viewers was increasing at a rapid rate even now.

At this rate, they would record the highest number of simultaneous viewers in LGN history.

“At this rate... No, it's already... a surefire jackpot?”

Channel One was already beyond a 'jackpot' and was now heading for LGN records, and the rest of the channels were doing pretty good as well.

Honestly, Kim WoonHo *did* believe that his Live Channels project would succeed, but he didn't know that it would do so good just from the first show.

He smiled in joy and watched the channel that was attracting insane amounts of viewers.

Then... he got absorbed into it.



Sanghyuk created a map for this broadcast and filmed the various areas of the Heroic Lands. Then, he released some of the footage onto the channel and disclosed a few simple facts about them.

They were the information that would be fine even if they were known by other users. The kind of facts that they would naturally learn upon coming to the Heroic Lands... But the thing was, there were zero users in the Heroic Lands right now other than him, and as such, the information provided by him were all 'great' pieces of information.

The Heroic Lands was a completely different place to the desolate Hellfire Desert, so it came as a shock to the others. The contents that everyone wished for was waiting for them in the Heroic Lands.

Every time Sanghyuk, no, 'Gale', introduced those elements to the public, the audience exploded in the chat with passion.

The chatting server almost went down a few times as well because of the load.

However, LGN had considerably good technology regarding this field, so they could barely handle the crisis, and right now, over 5 million viewers were watching channel 'One'.

Of course, only 2,000 people were allowed to join the main server and speak with Sanghyuk directly, but the users that watched through sub-servers reached over 5 million and was still increasing.

'Are we really going to hit 10 million?'

Lee Mirae, who was monitoring right in front of Sanghyuk, saw the number of viewers.

It had been just an hour since the broadcast started, but it was already reaching over 5 million.

10 million viewers was a dream-like number. The highest number of viewers related to internet video game streaming was around 7.11 million.

But at this rate, breaching that record seemed so easy. The various communities online were in an uproar anyway. This was regardless of in or outside the country.

The posts and comments that appeared there could be summed up in to one sentence.

'Watch LGN Live Channel's channel [One]! You must see it! You absolutely must!'

Everyone was recommending channel 'One'. Thanks to that, the other channels lost their steady influx of people, and some even lost their viewers.

With channel 'One' becoming such a hit, all the viewers flocked there and Sanghyuk ended up 'stealing' the viewers from other channels.

The guild that received the most damage among the 30 Live Channels was channel 'Crusader'.

Originally, they were going to broadcast a guild war today, but information seemed to have leaked from somewhere, as their opponent guild got the information and registered for 'guild protection' for a single day. 'Guild protection' was very costly at 100,000 gold per day, but they boldly registered for it in thoughts of giving Crusader a blow, and as a result, Crusaders were now like lost puppies.

They prepared for a guild war, but was unable to do so, so there was no way their broadcast would go properly.

Thanks to that, the viewers that came to watch Crusader's guild war all went over to channel One. The viewers even left messages that they would go over to channel One, so all the viewers started leaving.

In the end, Crusader recorded a pitiful 329 viewers that day, and was the

overwhelming last out of the 30 channels.

Crusader was completely screwed while One soared into the skies.

The difference between the two was like night and day.

'Gale', who finished introducing the Heroic Lands through parts 1 and 2, started clearing the public dungeon that the users would meet first upon coming to the Heroic Lands, namely the 'Red Swamplands', and started clearing it in real time.

The Red Swamplands wasn't that difficult, and the length was just sufficient. This area was split into three mini-dungeons, and Gale chose to go to the third and final mini-dungeon as well as the place where the boss monster of the swamp, Blood Anaconda, would appear.

For Gale, one hour was a long time. He already tried going through the top regions of the Red Swamps prior to the broadcast, and 40 minutes was enough if he took his time.

So, Gale progressed even slower in the broadcast and even explained some things on the way.

There were no hindrances. This place had neither monsters nor traps that were strong enough to threaten Gale.

Though, this was all in Gale's point of view. For the normal users, the top regions of the Red Swamplands was definitely not a place they could easily pass through.

However, it was as though Gale became Bob Ross as he kept saying 'that easy' to put the audience into shock.

He performed feats like 1-second timed evasion like nothing, and even struck back with gapstrikes one time out of two or three. This... was literally a freak for the normal users.

However, if they knew that this wasn't Gale's, no, Sanghyuk's 100% full strength, that Sanghyuk could actually perform 0.1-second timed evasion, and use gapstrikes like it's breathing, then they might look at Sanghyuk not like a freak but like a God.

In any case, Sanghyuk was going easy, but that was more than enough to captivate the

viewers.

[Hey hey hey, is that even possible? How can he dodge at the last second like that? Just how high is his dodge rate?]

[That doesn't happen just with a high dodge rate. Unless he could react in a split second like it's reflex, it would be hard to dodge no matter how high his dodge rate is.]

[Wow, he's using timed evasion like it's a passive skill. He ain't human, I say.]

[I also know how to use timed evasion, but doing it so quickly and naturally like that... Even the highest-ranking users wouldn't be able to do that.]

[This is legendary.]

[He doesn't look all that strong in terms of attack, but his dodge timings and gapstrikes are like cheats. Like that, there's no way monsters can do anything to him. Gapstrikes are OP against monsters.]

[Wow, now I wanna learn.]

[You can't learn that just because you want to. How high is your VRA? Those moves require at least 250 VRA to imitate.]

[Is 250 VRA even possible?]

[I heard that the average for pro gamers is 250.]

[Mine's 180... Dammit, I'm quite high amongst my friends, but now I feel like I'm tiny.]

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The audience kept chatting away. They could chat on the sub-servers and not on the main server where Gale would see, so they enjoyed their chat without distracting Gale.

Gale's channel One recorded a whopping 8.97 million views and easily replaced the

existing record by a large margin. Although they didn't achieve 10 million like Lee Mirae had hoped for, but this was already a great feat.

'You can't get full on the first mouthful' didn't seem to be right here.

Channel One became a super big hit.

However, its legend had just begun.



"Wow, how does this make sense? Just where did the information leak?... I'm really annoyed now."

Guild master Iwashima Mutou of Crusader expressed his vexation and looked at the guild management members that stood next to him.

"Just where did it leak from..."

Crusader guild was a guild that Iwashima Mutou, who was a real-estate agent in real life, had created with his acquaintances.

Iwashima Mutou was a bone-deep gamer from early childhood, as well as someone who earned a lot of money and used them in games, so there were naturally a lot of capable gamers around him.

Perhaps due to that, his Crusader guild had become one of the top guilds of Japan.

"Only the management, that is, the members standing here know about the target, right? I went my way to pick a guild that had nothing to do with us, but still looked easy to provoke... just where did it leak?"

"I'm sorry."

When Mutou got angry, the 7 members of the management team could only lower their heads. To them, Mutou was their president of a company as well as being their guild master.

They were actually receiving monthly wages from Mutou while they played.

“Ehem... I want to trust the people here. No, I believe in you. So, I won’t try to find who did it. However! Our guild’s Live Channel... I want to bring it back. Honestly, I’m too embarrassed to just leave it like this.”

Channel Crusader recorded the lowest number of viewers in the first broadcast.

116 (at the end of the broadcast).

This was worse than even some 3rd rate internet streaming on Pu TV.

Mutou, who had a bigger pride than anyone, could not accept this.

“I told you guys yesterday to think about how to attract viewers from the next broadcast, right? Everyone, go ahead.”

Mutou suppressed his anger to his best, and started discussing about how to revive the channel.

“Why don’t we go with a large-scale guild war again? This time, we’ll pick a proper opponent and show our might as a PvP-specialized guild.”

“That’s not a bad way... but the problem is the target. To attract the disappointed viewers, we need a strong blow.”

“These days, Dark Dragon guild of Korea was famous for PvP... Should we try touching them? They are very hot-headed so they should react if we provoke them.”

“Dark Dragon is too dangerous. They have their own live channel, and the guild master, DD is a lunatic and we don’t know what he may do.”

“Then which one?”

The management members of Crusader voiced out their opinions and burned in passion to revive their channel from the next broadcast.

“Uh... what do you think about... One guild?”

“One guild? Do you mean the One guild that hit a huge jackpot this time around?”

“Yes. If it’s that One guild, then it will definitely become an issue.”

“Hmm... but if they just refuse, then there's practically nothing we can do. This is especially the case since the members of One aren't revealed to the public. So actually, it's practically impossible to pick a fight with them.”

“If they refuse, then there's a profit for us as well. Crusader, the guild that even One guild avoids! Isn't that a good thing?”

Certainly, it made sense.

“That doesn't sound bad. We're just trying so... we have nothing to lose, right?”

Mutou also nodded his head and gave positive feedback.

“And I found out that One guild is a small-elite force so if we push them with numbers, then we will win no problem. No matter how great they are, numbers are important for guild wars.”

“He's right. If they don't avoid it, then we will crush them, and if they do, that's good for us. This is definitely a good idea.”

Everyone's opinions became one.

“Good! Then our next broadcast will be this one!”

In the end, Mutou came to a decision.

One vs Crusader.

This would definitely become a hot issue and attract viewers to his side, that's what he thought.

Chapter 66

Provocation (2)

Channel one became the single best channel, just like its name, 'One'. The viewers discussed about the Heroic Lands and its contents that Gale had shown them even after the broadcast was over, and claimed that they needed to get through the Path to Death as soon as possible.

However, it wasn't like the Path to Death became easier just because they wanted to. Thanks to Gale's broadcast, the guilds with enough power started to attack the Path to Death, but it still did not allow a single user to pass again.

"One guild? Was there such a guild?"

Seo Wontae tilted his head and checked the report again.

"It's a small, elite-force guild, that is wrapped in mysteriousness, but and they're quite famous. BJ Gale, that we reported to you last time, is the guild master of this guild."

"Ah! The solo play user from the Cave of Giants?"

"Yes, that is him."

Thanks to Gale's solo play on the Cave of Giants, Raonsoft had a very hard time.

"That user called Gale... he's not using a hack. How can he progress at such a fast rate?"

"It is impossible to find out about the details, and according to Chaos's reply he's a quadra-soul user, and has an extremely normal set of ancient knowledge."

"A quadra soul? Is that even possible? It's not like we sell karma coupons for cash..."

"I also find it curious, but I cannot find about anymore."

"Whoa... that's an interesting user."

“He is classified as an attentive user in our team and is under our monitoring.”

“How about the other members of the One guild?”

“The thing is... we aren’t aware of all the members of the One guild just yet. It’s so secretive that the only known ones are BJ Gale and the PvP user Blake. The rest are not even known yet. We don’t even know how many members there are in the guild either.”

“The guild is just as mysterious as this Gale user.”

“It seems like it’s a gathering of special, and extremely elite users.”

“This guild is also under monitoring, correct?”

“Yes. They’re targets of monitoring along with Gale. However... there isn’t any information about them whether it’s online or offline, so there aren’t many things we can find about about them.”

“Keep up your monitoring just in case. Oh! The proposal to lower the difficulty of Path of Despair will not be accepted. No matter how I think about it, lowering the difficulty now feels as though we’re forgetting about the future because of our immediate losses. The difficulty will not be increased or decreased. It will stay as it is.”

Due to the complaints from the users, the operation team proposed to nerf the Path of Despair (aka Path to Death), but Seo Wontae felt that this would be too much interference into the game and put down the proposal.

“Understood, sir.”

The operation team leader also nodded without saying anything back. Actually, he only proposed it just in case, and didn’t actually think that there was a need for it to be nerfed. EL was a world that was highly completed, so it would be better not to touch it as much as possible.

Even after the operation team leader left, Seo Wontae tapped on his desk for quite a while with a bitter smile on his face.

‘The game was designed under the assumption that there may be a total freak that may surpass everyone’s imaginations... but to think there is even more of a freak than

what I could imagine... So, the world is wide and there are a lot of freaks out there?"

Seo Wontae could only bitterly laugh at the appearance of Gale and the One guild that completely surpassed his imaginations.

Though, he didn't even know in his dreams that the user that surpassed his imagination was only a single person, and that person had returned from the future.



'We'll pop One guild's bubble!'

This was Crusader's declaration.

They declared that on various EL forum sites and said that they'll boldly challenge the One guild on tomorrow's Live Channel regular broadcast.

At the same time, they also threatened by saying that they'll give orders to kill on sight any members of the One guild if they did not accept the war.

Crusader thought that this daring provocation was definitely going to profit them whether One guild accepted or not.

Mutou believed that his one move would resuscitate the completely screwed channel Crusader, and also raise the popularity of their guild.

Of course, the reactions weren't that positive. Their intentions were obvious, so the majority of users criticized them instead.

Although some of the Japanese users spoke up for them, but negative reactions were the majority even within Japan.

However, Mutou had already expected this reaction. The reason he still did it was because noise marketing was also a marketing strategy and they may receive great effects.

The noise would disappear soon anyway, and their popularity would remain behind. That's how it worked around here.

‘Pah! Crusader? A guild war?’

Sanghyuk, who received a report from Ilya, laughed the moment the guild war notification popped up.

‘Crusader... How long were these guys able to keep the live channel again?’

Sanghyuk combed through his memories and tried hard to think about what information he had about Crusader, but he couldn’t think up of that much.

In the first place, Crusader was outside of his interest.

In his previous life, Crusader was also one of the first 30 guilds to win a live channel, but they were also the guild that gave up the channel and disappeared without a sound.

“A guild war, huh... It does make me feel ridiculous.”

Muttered Sanghyuk in a small voice and had called out various menus related to the guild.

Crusader’s declaration of war.

If Sanghyuk accepted this guild war, then a two-way guild war would be established. Of course, there was no need to accept it either. However, if he didn’t accept, his guild reputation would fall a little.

Guild reputation decided the level of the guild, so refusing the guild war several times may actually result in a decrease of guild level.

Of course, it wasn’t like one or two rejections had much effect. And right now, Sanghyuk wasn’t planning to level up his guild either. The most important reason for leveling up a guild was to raise the number of members limitation and accept more members, but the One guild was a 1-man guild, so that kind of thing meant nothing.

‘So, they want to gain some attention by using the One guild, huh?’

Sanghyuk naturally knew what they were thinking. Actually, this was obvious in anyone’s eyes.

“Ilya, there’s some work to do.”

Sanghyuk was planning to use the ‘Gather Information’ skill from the Hiddenline and get the information he wanted.

“Gather information about the Crusader guild. I especially need information on their core guild members. Give me the first, simple report in around 4 hours. And give me the secondary detailed report in 24 hours.”

“Understood. I’ll immediately utilize all the information network of the Hiddenline to gather information.”

“Oh, and let’s manipulate something while we’re at it. Leak the information that One guild is going to aim for the guild house of the Crusader guild. Don’t be too blatant about it, and be very secretive... make it so that the other part would have to spend some effort to find this out. Is that possible?”

“Yes, it is.”

Sanghyuk used both Gather information and Manipulate information before standing up.

‘If you want a fight, I’ll give you one.’

Sanghyuk had a smile on his face.

In the first place, there was no reason for him to avoid this guild war. It may look on the surface like a 1 vs many and was disadvantageous to Sanghyuk in every way... but that was only in a simple calculation that did not consider Sanghyuk’s overwhelming skills.

In fact, there were more things Sanghyuk could do precisely because he was alone.

“For now... let’s give them a simple greeting, eh?”

He wouldn’t decline a fight that walked into him. That was his way.

The Crusader guild was at level 5, and the number of members they had was nearly 400, which was the limit on the number of members at level 5.

They did declare war on the One guild, but didn't show any movement just yet. It wasn't like the One guild was something they could find just because they looked for it.

As they were known to have gone to the Heroic Lands, it would be practically impossible for them to find them in the Land of Dusk or the Hellfire Desert.

In any case, the Crusaders were planning to look for One guild in their broadcast 12 hours later along with a large-scale hunt-to-kill order.

Even if they did not manage to find him, they had to make a large commotion in order to attract attention, and also claim that the One guild had run due to fear.

However, that was just what they thought.

They thought that they were the ones on top of this war... but that was a big mistake.

'The main playing field of the Crusaders is the western city of the Hellfire Desert, Moongram... Their guild house is still in the Land of Dusk since they hadn't transferred yet, but the majority of the Crusader members act with here as the base, huh?'

Ilya's first report had some simple pieces of information, but the quality of that information was in no way low.

Sanghyuk closed the report window and had a look around. Moongram was the coolest place in Hellfire Desert, so the heat of the desert could barely be felt. Since it was night right now, the heat couldn't be felt at all.

Perhaps due to that, the users preferred Moongram the most out of all the cities in Hellfire Desert.

Before Sanghyuk entered Moongram, he first changed some of the recording settings.

'Set it to night mode... and if the resolution is lacking, I can just enhance it later, right?'

If the Crusaders were preparing for tomorrow's broadcast, Sanghyuk was planning to create a video today and broadcast it tomorrow.

'Let's see... in a situation like this, Blake should be the one appearing, right?'

Sanghyuk equipped the Shadow Duke of Falcon title on the postfix position and called out the avatar 'Blake'.

Paah!

Sanghyuk disappeared in an instant and Blake replaced him.

'Well, then. Shall I start?'

Sanghyuk opened the guild management window and accepted the declaration of war from Crusader.

You have accepted the guild, Crusader's, declaration of war.

Starting now, guild, One, and guild, Crusader, will be in a hostile relationship and free battle mode will be enabled between the two.

With that, Mutou, the guild master of Crusader, would have been notified that he had accepted the guild war, but the problem was that it wasn't transmitted to all the guild members.



The users of Crusader enjoyed their game like they always did. Although a declaration of war was given, the management-level personnel had said that there was no need to be nervous since it wasn't like the One guild had accepted it anyway.

They judged that they only needed to be nervous about tomorrow's regular broadcast and get ready for that.

As such, the guild members were walking around the city streets of Moongram very freely.

"Since we're never going to hunt anymore starting tomorrow once the hunt-to-kill order is out, so let's just level up today."

A normal member of the Crusader guild, Izumi, was close to leveling up, and asked another ordinary member of the guild, Asano, who was also a friend in real life, to

carry him a little.

“How much do you have left? I need to leave later”

“I think 30 minutes in the cactus forest will be enough.”

“Hmm... Okay. Then it's just 30 minutes, okay?”

“Thanks, you're my best friend.”

“Then treat me to something later.”

Izumi was able to enter the Crusader guild that he dreamed of, thanks to Asano's recommendation, as he had a much higher level. Thanks to that, he focused on the game a lot nowadays, and tried his best to become a user fit to become a Crusader.

Though, the only thing he could do was to level up, but in any case, Izumi was trying his best.

“Then let's go right n-“

Spah! Slice!

Asano was about to turn around and leave Moongram. However, not only was he not able to turn around, he couldn't even finish his words.

Asano suddenly collapsed sideways. At that moment, Izumi was about to scream due to the sudden turn of events, but a sword pierced his mouth before he could.

Paah, ruch!”

“Krrrrgh!”

Asano was sliced in two by a single slash, while Izumi was decapitated by a simple stab.

The sword that suddenly came from the darkness defeated the two users with two simple actions.

‘Blake’ of One guild has defeated ‘Lone Wolf’ of Crusader guild.

‘Blake’ of One guild has defeated ‘Samuraizumi’ of Crusader guild.

Two members of Crusader died in the alleys of Moongram, but no one saw what killed them.

Only a single sword suddenly appeared from the darkness, erased the two of them, and disappeared back into the darkness.

A monster walked inside the darks of Moongram.

that monster quickly and accurately devoured the members of Crusader.

Before Crusader could even react properly, they were bitten to death.

That monster was planning to turn Moongram into a gigantic graveyard tonight.

Chapter 67

Slaughterer (1)

“H, how many?”

Mutou confirmed again with a face of distrust.

“There are 142 confirmed dead... and there are more calls through the emergency hotline. From that, there seems to be at least 200 that were done in.”

“Hmm... the culprit should be the One guild, right?”

“Yes, seeing as how they were all killed in Moongram, it seems that the people from One guild have gone into hiding and accepted the guild war there and started ambushing.”

“Urgh, dammit! If it was any other guild, I would have prepared for this kind of ambush... to think that even the One guild would stoop to that point...”

Not only Mutou, but all of the management personnel in Crusader thought that the One guild would have no interest in this guild war. Small-scale guilds didn't prefer guild wars normally.

Their leisurely thoughts that stemmed from various causes became a snake that bit back at them.

“You have called for an emergency summon, right?”

“Yes, we have ordered an emergency summon as well as a caution order to all the members of the guild. The order was to move around in groups of at least 7, so they shouldn't be killed without being able to do anything.”

“Goddammit!”

Baam!

Mutou slammed on the desk with his fists and shouted.

“What about the broadcast? Is the broadcast ready?”

The live channel’s regular broadcast was going to be in an hour. Originally, Mutou thought that he would have plenty of time to leisurely disdain on the One guild and broadcast that.

However, the situation completely changed.

Not to mention any leisurely disdain, he felt as though he would never be able to relieve his frustration if he didn’t smash One guild and their members into pieces.

“We’re planning to gather all of our members and comb through every bit of the Land of Dusk and the Hellfire Desert. If we poke every single place, then something must pop out, no?”

“Well, they would never be able to hide since this is a guild war. Although they were able to hide like rats until now... things would change.”

Mutou thought that small-elite guilds like the One guild were easy to bash on.

“The assault force is ready, right?”

“Yes. There are 7 groups starting from 1 to 7. There are 14 people per group and are comprised of people with classes that complement each other.”

“Then what about the broadcast?”

“Main recorder and a sub recorder was set in each group. Through them, the best footage would be filmed, and I’m going to edit it live and commentate on the broadcast.”

Hinaoka, who Mutou trusted the most, was formerly someone who worked with video editing, and did this kind of things well. Mutou had left the live channel up to him.

“Good, then I’ll leave you to the broadcast.”

“Yes. Aniki just needs to lead group 1 and hunt them down once you see them. Group 1 is the special assault force and the elites of our guild are mostly there.”

“Oho, looks like I’ll be able to completely stomp on the rats of One guild.”

“Then I’ll stream that video live... and we’ll be able to tell the world how strong Crusader is.”

“Good, very good!”

Mutou nodded with a very satisfied expression. Although he received a blow on the back of his head, at most, it was the deaths of quite a few ordinary guild members. The core members, their elites, were alive and well.

‘Small and elite force? I’ll tell you that such an idealistic concept will not work in the guild wars of EL.’

Mutou thought that the characteristics of One guild ‘small elite’ and ‘mysterious’ would not work at all in guild wars. In the first place, this was the reason he confidently chose to go with noise marketing.

Mutou’s confidence.

And the consequential guild war between One and Crusader.

The act 2 to their war began along with the live channel.



Slash, crunch!

A blade from the dark decapitated yet another person.

Actually, killing another user instantly in a PvP situation was not an easy feat to do if there was not a lot of level difference between the ones fighting.

This should have been the case especially since the majority of the members of Crusader was around 40.

Defeating such users in a single attack was an abnormal feat. This was what Mutou and the rest of the higher personnel in Crusader missed.

No, not only them, the majority of the killed members forgot about this as well.

Sanghyuk, no, Blake's attack power was not something that an ordinary user could endure. Sanghyuk had an incredible amount of titles that gave percentage boosts to his stats, so his basic stats like strength or agility were insanely high.

On top of that, his equipment was also set up perfectly, with gear that even the highest-ranking players would envy about.

Since Sanghyuk focused most of his ear towards critical hit rates and critical damage, 7 out of 10 attacks were critical strikes.

He had enough power to kill a user with a single strike without a critical, if it did happen to be a critical, the outcome was obvious.

With a critical attack every single thing he attacked died in a single hit, and it was usually a one-hit one-kill even if it was not a critical, but the target was a non-tanker.

There were times when the target endured an attack when it was not a critical. But since the continuing strike would kill the target anyway, there wasn't that much difference to the ones being killed.

One strike, or two strikes at best.

The number of people that Blake crushed through that action was 247.

It was just that the report was late. The ordinary members of Crusader had practically all died by Blake's hands.

Srr, clack.

Blake sheathed the Ogreslayer and walked up from the dark.

'There's 50 minutes until the broadcast... Looks like I should get ready for that then.'

Naturally, channel One had to do their regular broadcast as well. Since he had enough materials for today, he only needed to edit it quickly.

Actually, there weren't that much to edit anyway. In the first place, he was careful in his actions in consideration for the broadcast.

Thanks to that, the footage was almost perfect without any editing at all.

'I got an awesome title through this hunt not to mention contents, so it really is an awesome catch.'

The reason Blake could smile even more pleasantly was not only because he got enough contents for this broadcast.

He had gained another title.

When he killed 200 members of Crusader with a single hit, he acquired a very splendid title.

Title – 'This is one-hit one-kill!'

Grade – unique

Description – You have defeated 200 hostile users in less than one day. And you have not died in the process and you can be called the textbook of one-hit one-kill.

Effects – [Prefix: N/A] [Postfix: N/A] [Constant effect: Those who strike first wins(A): If your first attack to your enemy is a critical strike, the critical damage is amplified by 2.5 times.]

Sanghyuk found about this title only after he got it.

Although there weren't any prefix or postfix affects, the constant effect was awesome.

The critical damage afflicted would be amplified by 2.5 times... Although it only applied to the first attack, and only applied to critical strikes, its power was frightening once it did activate.

His critical damage was amplified so much already because of his item settings, but if that was yet again amplified by 2.5 times... Sanghyuk's first strike, as long as it was a critical, would become a frightening blow.

This was a title that suited Sanghyuk more than anyone else. Although it was a unique-grade, it felt like a legendary-grade title to Sanghyuk.

Sanghyuk had acquired a tremendous side benefit and began preparing for his

broadcast with a grin on his face.

With the addition of Those who strike first wins(A), Blake's ambushes became even stronger. This meant... a harder guild war for Crusader.

After the first broadcast, the regular broadcast started 2 days later. In today's regular broadcast, all 30 channels would simultaneously broadcast like they did last time, but starting next week, they would broadcast four times a week and for 2 hours day.

Live channels could decide on their day and hour of their broadcast, and they would decide who would choose first through today's viewing rates.

This was strictly ability-centered.

This was Kim Woonho's style. In any case, due to that reason, the live channels had to prepare a lot for today's broadcast.

If they were pushed back in the rankings in today's broadcast, they may have to deal with permanent losses in the future.

The reason Crusader struggled so hard was also because of this. They had to raise their rank even if they had to do it through noise marketing.

In any case, their initial viewing rates told that their noise marketing had succeeded to some extent.

Well, that was after leaving aside channel One who got 2 million viewers watching within the first 10 minutes of the broadcast.

Other than channel One, the rest were just about the same, and the one with the most number of viewers was channel Rising.

They acquired 300 thousand views in 10 minutes and confirmed their abilities. However, Crusader attracted 150 thousand in 10 minutes.

The other channels had around 100 thousand, and the lower-ranking channels maintained around 10 to 20 thousand. Considering that, Crusader's noise marketing could be considered very successful.

In channel Crusader, the Crusader guild had naturally sent out hunt-to-kill orders and their users were looking for the One guild. However, channel One showed Blake's massacre footage that happened the night before

One was a livestream without a single proper battle, while the other was a recorded footage but was also a massacre video of Blake doing instakills.

Obviously, the reactions were split as well.

[What the heck? This looks like they'll do nothing at this rate.]

[Man, I thought they were finally going to pop One guild's bubble, but there's nothing here at all.]

[When are you going to fight?]

[Right now, channel One is broadcasting a Crusader massacre video. Oh, this is so funny. What kind of comedy is this?]

[This is so boring. How long are you going to do this?]

[I'm going back to channel One. These guys are screwed no matter how you look at it.]

[I'm in the wrong for expecting anything from these guys.]

[They aren't Crusaders, they are bubblesaders.]

...

...

This was the reaction on channel Crusader, while on channel One...

[Wow, as expected of Blake! Awesome!]

[No matter how I look at it, the best PvP player of EL is Blake.]

[How can he kill them in a single strike like that? Guys, is that so easy to do?]

[Bullshit... let this bro explain it in simple terms. Usually, there must be a level gap of around 30 for such a thing to happen. But the crusader guys that are being massacred right now should be at level 40 at least... then does that mean Blake is level 70? That doesn't make sense. It's just that Blake is goddamn OP.]

[Slaughterer Blake! What the heck. There's no need for the entire One guild to come. Blake is taking care of this all by himself.]

[A hard carry from the slaughterer!]

[This is really awesome. A friend of mine is watching channel Crusader next to me, but those guys look screwed already.]

[The viewer numbers on Crusader started falling.]

[They were practically agro-ing in the first place. So it's no wonder that happened.]

[Channel One is da best! Let's hit 10 million today, yeah?]

[10 million is probably impossible. The first broadcast only went up that high due to all the ads and opening events... I expect around 6 to 7 million viewers for today.]

[Here comes shit-sperts again.] (T/N: shit+experts, I made this up on the spot)

[Man, those predictors are so lame!]

...

...

Just like what the reactions told, channel One's viewers kept increasing and channel Crusader kept losing them.

Crusader had burned a fire with a dangerous fuel known as agro. However, they started being devoured by their own fire.

Chapter 68

Slaughterer (2)

7,164,374 versus 4,933.

These were the numbers of viewers that channel One and channel Crusader had when the broadcast ended, respectively.

Channel one hit 7.9 million views at its highest and proved once again that they were the single best channel.

Considering that the 2nd place, channel Rising, had 970 thousand, this was an immense feat.

As for channel Crusader... they just showed the futility of getting views through agro.

They were completely screwed. No, they were practically driven to ruin.

The few thousand remaining viewers also didn't stay there to watch, but to bash on their actions for the remaining time of the broadcast.

in the end, Crusader had no results at all in their 2 hours of search.

In the first place, they were looking for what they couldn't find, so this was natural.

Meanwhile, not only did channel One broadcast something that made everyone refreshed, Gale even communicated with the viewers and gave answers if people asked questions.

Sanghyuk replied to some of the questions that he deemed suitable, and his answers were so easily understandable and had great reactions.

Two hours went by in a flash like that.

The viewers complained and asked for an extension, but even though this was an internet-based streaming, it was impossible to extend the broadcast when there was

already a set schedule.

Right now, LGN was a large TV company that was considered one of the top 5 in the world. And they did this through purely internet streaming alone.

There was no way they would get swayed by the viewers like that.

The broadcast ended.

However, the guild war wasn't. In fact, Sanghyuk stayed still during the broadcast. Considering the cowardly nature of Crusader, they would probably find him through watching his broadcast if he did it live, so he didn't bother doing so.

It wasn't because he was scared of them, but because he didn't want to give them any content to broadcast.

Since it came down to this, Sanghyuk was planning to ruin Crusader to his utmost best. Naturally, he was planning to make them give up on the live channel during the process.

As soon as the broadcast ended, Sanghyuk called for Ilya.

He thought that by now, the opponent should have taken the bait.

“How are they doing? No changes at all?”

“There were some changes. They found out about the information you have secretly scattered and quickly gathered their elites to their guild house. I have confirmed myself that a considerable number of Dimensional Travelers were guarding the guild house.”

“Fufu, so they took it as I expected.”

Checking that his opponent had indeed taken his bait, Sanghyuk nodded his head and stood up from his seat.

“What are you planning to do? Are you going to strike the defenseless side since they're all gathered up in one place?”

Ilya usually wasn't the type to ask many questions, but she was curious about how

Sanghyuk would act this time.

She naturally expected Sanghyuk to cause a commotion on the east and attack the west. This situation was perfect for that occasion anyway.

However, Sanghyuk declined ordinary methods.

“No, they’ve all gathered up for me. Why would I go anywhere else?”

Sanghyuk replied with a grin on his face.

His move was not to cause a commotion on the east and attack the west, but to cause a commotion on the east and attack the east. This really didn’t comply to common tactics.

However, it wasn’t like the very existence of Sanghyuk complied to common rules either.

“They’re all in one place, so I gotta catch them all.”

Sanghyuk’s tactics were simple.

Gather them up, and kill them all in one fell swoop. This couldn’t even be called a strategy.

Some smart people may laugh at his so-called ‘tactics’, but the thing was that it would be scary if it actually worked.

“Are you sure that they’re going to attack this place?”

Mutou tilted his head and checked once again.

“Yes. The information is more than 90% accurate. This information was gotten from very high-level NPCs, so it is very reliable. It seems as though they are going to attack our guild house and break us completely.”

There are two important things to a guild.

First was the guild warehouse. Guild warehouses had items that the guild had

gathered as a whole, so being robbed in this place was definitely going to be a big hit on the guild.

The second was the symbol of the guild, known as the guildstone. Guildstones could be destroyed by enemy guild members during a guild war, and once that happened, the guild reputation would halve and the guild level may fall.

Guildstones were things that guilds above level 3 had to install, and every time they were destroyed, the guild reputation would halve, and once it was destroyed ten times, the guildstone would permanently be destroyed and the guild would forcibly disband.

Thanks to these two reasons, the guildhouse was a place they had to protect no matter what.

“Dammit... to think that we’ll have to watch out for an assault in this situation... tell the assault force outside to get ready to return to the guild house at any moment.”

Mutou judged that if the One guild actually attacked their guild house, then it would actually be dangerous. So, he not only recalled his special assault forces, he also called capable members of his guild through the emergency hotline.

‘Yes. Perhaps it might be better to fight like this. Stop hiding like rats and please attack!’

Mutou was already frustrated because he couldn’t do anything during the broadcast. He wished for them to attack now.

He still thought that the One guild would be no match for them if they could fight.



The Crusader guild’s guild house was a suitable-sized house with 2 stories. Guilds without much money used small single rooms as their guild house, but Crusader was a relatively large- scale guild, and they could use a proper house as their guild house.

Even larger-scale guilds would construct guild towers as their guild house, and actually, only guilds with proper guild towers could be considered a real guild.

This was because they could hire guards to protect the tower when the guild house became a tower.

If Crusader had raised their guild house to a guild tower and even hired guards, then there would be no need for them to think so hard about protecting their guild house.

Guards that protected guild houses were very strong, and intruders were not able to invade so easily.

The levels of the guards were at least 60, and up to 3 of them could be hired, so ordinary invasions could be blocked with them alone.

However, up until now, the number of guilds that had guild towers as their guild house was 4 across the entirety of EL.

Towers were just that expensive to build, and the maintenance fee was high as well.

In any case, Crusader was not able to build a tower, and they could only protect their guild house by themselves.

‘Dammit... Today’s dungeon hunting is out the window, eh.’

Takei, one of the elite members of Crusader, was guarding the streets that lead to the guild house with a frown.

The reason for his vexation was simple. Although a guild war had begun, he thought that the characteristics of the One guild made it that there would be no battles and he had secretly promised to go to a dungeon with someone else.

Of course, this promise was something he hadn’t told the guild, so it wasn’t like he could complain either. He was only sorry to the people that he couldn’t keep his promise to.

‘Ah, I thought that I would really get a mithril sword today... such a pity.’

Takei made an expression of disappointment. However, the guild orders came first, so he didn’t plan to leave his post.

Besides Takei was Otsuka, who was also on guard duty like him, and he was currently calling his girlfriend. Although this wasn’t supposed to be allowed, he pretended not to see it, since it wasn’t like they were total strangers.

‘But it looks like I can rest up after another hour. Whew, did I sleep too little yesterday? Why do I feel so tir...’

That was the end of Takei’s thought process.

He was beheaded and couldn’t continue his thoughts. He didn’t even know how he died. The attack was just that precise and fast.

And the moment Takei collapsed, another swordlight flashed.

Flash! Psh, crunch!

Otsuka, who was calling his girlfriend, also fell down next to Takei with a hole on his head.

Thud, the two members of Crusader fell down and the path to their guild house was open.

And Blake, who walked out from the dark, started walking on that road.

‘Video, check.’

Sanghyuk checked the video he was recording for one last time.

The perspective was special-tower which gave the widest field of view, and the resolution was UHD (Ultra High Definition).

There were no problems with the detailed settings either.

Srrrr.

After his final check, Blake calmly unsheathed the Ogreslayer.

From the moment Blake was boldly walking up to the guild house, Crusader were on alert.

They did think that the One guild may assault them, but they didn’t think that they would be so up front about it.

The assault forces of Crusader, who were waiting, quickly left the guild house and

surrounded Blake. They did not think that Blake was here alone, and split up to find other attackers.

To Blake's eye, those were futile efforts, but in Crusader's position, they had to do that.

"It's Blake! That guy is Blake The Slaughterer!"

Crusader recognized Blake at a glance.

In fact, it would be weird if they didn't.

"Forget about slaughterer, kill him now!"

It would be weird to chat with the enemy in the guild war. So, the 10 people of the assault Crusader quickly darted towards Blake.

10 vs 1.

It seemed like a very unfair fight again.

'The one up front! At this distance... it will reach!'

Blake noticed that one of the assault force members were quicker to react than the others. The moment he noticed that, a scene played out in his mind.

Ta-ta-tap.

Pi~ng! Psh!

Rather than retreating, Blake instead rushed up front and very accurately pierced with his Ogreslayer.

The tip of the Ogreslayer slightly dug into the forehead of the frontmost assault force member.

This happened because Blake's distance calculations were so precise. Though, this attack was far from perfect.

In fact, it felt too shallow.

However, since the attack had ‘succeeded’, and was deemed as a critical strike, the damage was immense.

Crunch, poof!

The one who strikes first wins effect was applied and the person who was barely poked in the head had his head explode.

Originally, it would be finished with just a light wound on the forehead, but the ‘critical hit + the one who strikes first wins’, synergized and obliterated the head.

“*Gasp*!”

“What the!”

Obviously, the assault force members of Crusader could only stop after seeing that.

One of their colleagues head his head crushed with a single attack. Moreover, from what they saw, it was only a scratch at best, but that scratch made the head explode.

The remaining 9 members of the assault force felt a chill run behind their backs.

This was out of their league... no matter how they looked at it, this wasn’t going to be good for them.

Chapter 69

Top Ranker (1)

The sword reached. No, it just grazed past.

However, the result was...

Slash, crunch!

Another elite member of the Crusader guild collapsed with his body split into two.

There were no exceptions. The moment any of them touched Blake's sword, their bodies were blown into smithereens.

It was an insanely destructive power! Although none of them knew how he did it, every time Blake swung his sword, a Crusader guild member collapsed on the ground.

Blake took care of the 10 elite users in front of him in mere 20 seconds before crushing the gates of the guild house and entering.

Of course, Crusader didn't stay still. 20 more elite users immediately surrounded Blake and attacked him.

However, Blake evaded all of those attacks with nonsensical movements. He moved around as though he knew the dead angle of all of those attacks and evaded almost all of the attacks just by twisting his body.

Some attacks did land on him, but Blake's defense seemed to be insanely high, or he seemed to dodge all the fatal ones, or in any case, he endured like it was nothing.

He evaded or parried the stronger attacks while just ignoring the small ones, and every single one of his strikes kills one enemy.

This sounded somewhat nonsensical at a glance, but Blake made such a thing a reality.

He was like a wolf, no, a dragon, in a flock of sheep.

He was in a completely different league of his own.

The elites of Crusader were all high-level users in their late 40s (in level), but the results didn't change that much.

Once the Ogreslayer moved, one Crusader member fell down without exception. The users of Crusader guild kept coming back to the guild house using the guild skill 'return to guild house', but what awaited them was the fatal 'first strike'.

The members of Crusader fell down the moment came back... Blake became a mad grim reaper and reaped all of their lives.

"How many are there?"

Mutou had appeared in front of the guild warehouse in the 2nd basement floor and asked Hinaoka.

He exited the game to get some sleep and had hurriedly come back after Hinaoka contacted him.

"There's... one."

"What? One? What bullshit are you saying!"

"I'm sorry, but it is indeed just one person."

"And we're being smashed by that single person? Do you expect me to believe that?"

"It may be hard to believe, but it is the truth."

"That's bullshit..."

Mutou could not believe any of Hinaoka's words. What guild was Crusader? It was the guild he had invested a lot of time and money into since the public launching of EL.

It had many skilled users and was enough to be called the greatest guild in Japan.

And the same guild... was being smashed to pieces by a single user. This was definitely a hard fact to believe.

However, he now had to believe in it even if he didn't want to. That was because it was happening in front of his eyes.

Booom!

Blake smashed the door to the basement 2nd floor and quietly climbed down the stairs.

The moment he appeared, Mutou stopped speaking and stared at him.

“No way...”

Mutou thought that this was all a dream. Unfortunately, it wasn't.

“The guild master mark... Crusader's Musashi, no, should I call you Mutou? Anyway, we finally meet.”

Mutou's game ID was Musashi.

He was a fan of Miyamoto Musashi from a young age and named his character Musashi as well.

He was actually quite a skilled swordsman in the game as well.

Besides Mutou were Hinaoka and 13 other elite users of the guild.

In headcount, it was 1 versus 15, but as for the morale, the 1 was overwhelming the 15.

“You bastard...”

Mutou couldn't say anything properly. He still could not believe the fact that nearly 200 guild members of Crusader had fallen without much resistance. He was a person who believed in the power of the majority. As such, he could not accept the fact that his guild was falling down.

“Well, we aren't that close to each other, so I'll just state my business here.”

Blake continued speaking as he watched the agitated Mutou.

“This is the first time. If you do not surrender, we will keep looking for you a 2nd time, a 3rd time... forever. It may be me, or it may be someone else, but what's for sure is that it will turn out the same as it is today.”

This was no threat.

Blake was stating the truth. As soon as he spoke, he continued to walk forward.

Screeech

Blake dragged the Ogreslayer on the ground as he approached the 15 people, but the pressure felt from him was immense. It was as though Blake's side had the 15 people instead of Mutou's.

Even Mutou felt that way. Perhaps due to that, he panicked as he spoke.

“Ki, kill him!”

The moment Mutou shouted that Blake rushed forward a beat ahead.

Naturally, Crusader didn't stay still and tried to defend against Blake in their own ways. However, Blake was faster than all of them.

Screeech, slash!

When Blake slashed out with his Ogreslayer from long range, the blade brushed past Mutou's body.

Mutou didn't think that Blake would attack from such a long range. So he ended up getting brushed by the attack.

‘It's fine, it's just a scra...’

Mutou was attacked first, but the opponent's attack was very light and thought that he would endure this. No, he tried to think that.

However, he couldn't finish his thought.

Slick, crunch!

“*Gasssssp!*”

The attack was definitely shallow; Mutou definitely felt that the attack barely grazed past his body, and remembered that the sword indeed just brushed past his body.

However, the moment the sword went past him, the wound that he thought was nothing felt immensely unfamiliar and his body was twisted as well.

At the same time, Mutou’s health also fell from 100% to 0%.

‘What the?’

Mutou couldn’t understand. According to what he knew, the attack that grazed past his body just now was not a solid hit.

At most, it was a ‘graze’ that would only amount to 10% of a solid hit. However, that graze blew away all of his health.

Mutou had purely offensive classes without any defense capabilities.

His class ‘Two blade style(Nitoryu) swordsman’ was definitely weak in regards to its defense. However, he still could not understand how his health fell down all the way to zero with what was practically a miss.

Thud!

Mutou collapsed onto the ground. He had the expression of disbelief until the end of his life.

An insane critical-hit equipment setup as well as the passive ability ‘Those who strike first wins’.

Actually, it was quite nonsensical that such a combination existed at all. And anyway, Musashi, the guild master of Crusader, equipped with top-tier items, died a vain death.

As the guild master was like a symbol of the guild. His death triggered two fatal penalties.

One was that the guild warehouse, which should stay closed, was going to open, and the other was that unlike normal guild members, the guild master could not log back

into the game for the next 24 hours.

At this moment, Mutou should be venting his rage on the innocent game capsule right now, but in any case, he would not be allowed back into the game for the next 24 hours.

This meant... that Crusader practically became a snake without a head.

With Mutou down, there were 14 elite users of Crusader left. Right now, they still overwhelmed Blake in terms of headcount.

However, it could be seen at a glance that the 14 was scared of the 1. Especially after Mutou collapsed down in vain.

The 14 were completely overwhelmed. And naturally, their chances of defeating Blake in this situation was infinitely near zero.



Thud.

It took merely a minute for Blake to take care of the remaining users of Crusader.

They weren't a match for him in the first place.

To fight against him properly, they needed to be able to endure Sanghyuk's first strike.

To endure the insane critical hit on the first strike, they either had to have items that lowered critical hits, either in rates or in damage. Or, there was also the option of going with insane defense options and endure the full blow.

Both of these cases were impossible for Crusader. At the current point in time, the only ones that had the qualifications to endure Sanghuk's first strike were the ones that people called 'rankers'.

Only at their level would they be able to endure the first strike and continue with a normal fight.

Crusader didn't have any rankers.

Rankers were slightly different to pro gamers.

EL didn't have any official pro gamers as of yet.

In the first place, all of the competitive contents were in the Heroic Lands, so EL would only become a proper e-sports once users started arriving in the Heroic Lands.

As such, the users with pro gamer-skills were called 'rankers' right now. Though this title would still be there once pro gamers came out, but in any case, the only term to call the top-class players right now was the term 'ranker'.

And the easiest method to differentiate rankers and non-rankers was surprisingly not by level.

In fact, many people said that levels were very inaccurate.

As such, people added several other standards with levels as the base and decided on rankers. As these 'rankers' weren't officially picked by Raonsoft themselves and were updated weekly on various forums, it couldn't be trusted 100%.

'Whew, these guys have gathered quite a lot.'

Having ground apart all the users of Crusader that blocked his way, Blake entered their guild warehouse and made a satisfied smile.

There were surprisingly many items of value in their warehouse.

First, Blake opened his emptied spatial expansion bag and started to rake all the items in without hesitation.

Since he had come here to do exactly this today, he had completely emptied an extra-large-sized spatial expansion bag. Blake's bag started devouring the guild warehouse like a black hole.

Of course, it wasn't like he put in everything in his sight. Blake was calmly evaluating them one by one.

"Huh?"

Meanwhile, one of the 'jackpots' he was expecting, finally came to him.

'The key to the Temple of the Seven Dragons!'

What caught Blake's eye was a rather crude-looking dagger.

Anyone would think of a dagger when they saw this. And the item information also said 'Universe dagger' (T/N: 'Qiankun' dagger for some CN readers.) as well.

However, Blake knew the true identity of this dagger very well. After all, this was an item that top-tier players would buy for hundreds of millions of gold in around 5 years.

Though, this was just an ordinary unique-grade dagger since it would take at least 4 years for people to find out that this dagger is the key to that place.



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